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“I Saw the Lord...”
(Isaiah 6)

Study 3
**God Reveals Himself
To Us**
(Is. 6:1-4; Heb. 1:1-2)

PLEASE NOTE WE ARE ADDING A 3RD BIBLE STUDY THIS WEEK – 5:00 P.M. IN THE SENATE PRESIDENT’S CONFERENCE ROOM. A LIGHT DINNER WILL BE PROVIDED. DURING THE BUSY DAYS OF THE SESSION WE HOPE HOLDING THREE SEPARATE MEETINGS MIGHT ALLOW YOU TO JOIN US FOR AN ENCOURAGING TIME OF STUDY, FELLOWSHIP, AND PRAYER.

It is amazing how communication in the capitol has changed over the years. We remember the days when hard copies of proposed bills were frantically printed and distributed to all the legislators, staff, and lobbyists involved. It was fun to watch the last hours on the last night of the session when “runners” would carry bills back and forth between the chambers. Communication with constituents and groups has gone from letters and phone calls to email and social media. With technology, communication has become much more clear and effective. How God communicates and reveals Himself to us has changed over the years as well. In the Old Testament, He spoke through the prophets, visions, pictures, and illustrations. Today He reveals Himself to us through His Son, Jesus Christ. His revelation through Christ is indeed much clearer. As we study Isaiah’s vision of God’s glory let us consider how we may “see the Lord” and find the encouragement that comes from knowing Him better.

Throughout Scripture we see many examples of God revealing Himself to His people. He revealed Himself to Moses at the burning bush and on Mount Sinai. He revealed His character through the Law. He revealed Himself to the people of Israel when His glory filled the tabernacle and the temple. However, we have no greater example of God revealing Himself than when He did so to the prophet Isaiah in Isaiah chapter 6:

1 In the year of King Uzziah’s death I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, lofty and exalted, with the train of His robe filling the temple.

2 Seraphim stood above Him, each having six wings: with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew.

3 And one called out to another and said,

“Holy, Holy, Holy, is the LORD of hosts, The whole earth is full of His glory.”

4 And the foundations of the thresholds trembled at the voice of him who called out, while the temple was filling with smoke. Isaiah 6:1-4

What an amazing vision! As God was calling Isaiah to ministry, He chose to reveal Himself and give him a glimpse of His glory and majesty. Isaiah was overwhelmed. In future studies we will dig into the details of Isaiah’s vision. Today we just want to consider how God revealed Himself – and how He reveals Himself to us today.

Do You Want to Hear and See God?

In Exodus 33, Moses made a bold request of God: ***“I pray you, show me Your glory!”*** (Ex. 33:18). God replied, ***“I Myself will make all My goodness pass before you...but you cannot see My face, for no man can see Me and live!”*** (vs. 19-20) God placed Moses into a cleft in the rock, and gave Moses just a glimpse of His glory as He passed by. Perhaps we should start with a question:

***Do you want to see God’s glory?
Do YOU want to see and hear from God?***

In your challenging work in the capitol and during the difficult days of the session, do you want to see a revelation of God so that you might know Him better and serve Him more faithfully? If so, how does that take place? Do we ask for or expect a vision like that of Isaiah or Moses? How can we with Isaiah say, ***“I saw the Lord...”***? God has made it clear how He reveals Himself to us today.

**God Reveals Himself to Us
Through His Son, Jesus Christ**

In Hebrews, God tells how He has revealed Himself to us:

1 God, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways, 2 in these last days has spoken to us in His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the world.

Hebrews 1:1-2

We learn some important things from this passage:

God Spoke

God communicates and reveals Himself to us. Though God is holy and infinite, and we are sinful and finite, He has chosen to communicate and reveal Himself to us. God speaks that we might know Him, love Him, and serve Him in joyful obedience.

God Spoke in the Prophets

In the Old Testament God's typical way of communicating and revealing Himself was through prophets. These were the people He inspired to speak and write down His Word. Isaiah was one of these prophets God used.

God Spoke...In Many Portions and Many Ways

In the Old Testament God spoke and revealed Himself through the prophets in many ways. He spoke through visions such as Isaiah's. The law, the Tabernacle and Temple, and the sacrificial system were all "pictures" God used to communicate and point to Christ. God used many genres of writing to communicate: history, poetry, prophesy. These were all different ways of communicating what He was doing to redeem sinful people.

God Speaks to Us now in His Son

Long ago, God spoke through prophets. Today He is doing something very different – He speaks to us and reveals Himself through His Son, Jesus Christ. God has revealed Himself by coming to us in the person of His Son. Through Jesus' birth, life, death, and resurrection God has revealed Himself to us in a much better and clearer way.

The message of the entire Book of Hebrews is that **Jesus is better!** Everything we read in the Old Testament points to Jesus. We read of the priests – Jesus is a better priest. We read of the sacrifices – Jesus is a better sacrifice. We read of the tabernacle – Jesus is a better Tabernacle. We read of how God communicated and revealed Himself to people – Jesus is a better way of revealing and communicating who God is and all that He has done for us. Jesus is God's Word to us. Jesus is called "The Word" in the Gospel of John:

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God (John 1:1)

And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth. (John 1:14)

We believe most of the revelations of God even in the Old Testament were through the Son, Jesus Christ. This is certainly true of Isaiah's vision:

36 These things Jesus spoke, and He went away and hid Himself from them. 37 But though He had performed so many signs before them, yet they were not believing in Him. 38 This was to fulfill the word of Isaiah the prophet which he spoke: "LORD, WHO HAS BELIEVED OUR REPORT? AND TO WHOM

HAS THE ARM OF THE LORD BEEN REVEALED?" 39 For this reason they could not believe, for Isaiah said again, 40 "HE HAS BLINDED THEIR EYES AND HE HARDENED THEIR HEART, SO THAT THEY WOULD NOT SEE WITH THEIR EYES AND PERCEIVE WITH THEIR HEART, AND BE CONVERTED AND I HEAL THEM." 41 These things Isaiah said because he saw His glory, and he spoke of Him. John 12:36

When Isaiah saw his vision of God, he got a glimpse of the glory and holiness of Jesus Christ. His vision of God on the throne points us to Christ in Philippians 2:10-11: ***"...At the name of Jesus EVERY KNEE WILL BOW, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."***

"I Saw the Lord..."

This was Isaiah's testimony as he recorded this wondrous experience. Do we want to "see the Lord", to know Him better? How can we "see the Lord" today? We "see the Lord" as we study His life and ministry in His written Word – the Bible. During the hectic days of the session, it may be easy to neglect spending time in God's Word. Isaiah's vision of God is what kept him going through 50 years of difficult ministry. It is your vision of God, your understanding and remembering all Christ has done for you that will help keep you going through the difficult days of the session.

John Piper summed it up well:

"When I complain that I don't hear the Word of God, when I feel a desire to hear the voice of God, and get frustrated that he does not speak in ways that I may crave, what am I really saying? Am I really saying that I have exhausted this final decisive Word revealed to me so fully in the New Testament? Have I really exhausted this Word? Has it become so much a part of me that it has shaped my very being and given me life and guidance? Or have I treated it lightly — skimmed it like a newspaper, dipped in like a taste tester — and then decided I wanted something different, something more? This is what I fear I am guilty of more than I wish to admit. God is calling us to hear his final decisive Word — to meditate on it and study it and memorize it and linger over it and soak in it until it saturates us to the center of our being."¹

¹Piper, John. *In These Last Days, God has Spoken by a Son*. Message from March, 1996. www.desiringgod.org.

BIBLE STUDIES

Thursdays

8:00 House Government Org Conference Room (East Wing)

12:00 Noon Treasurer's Conference Room (EB54)

5:00 PM Senate President's Conference Room